LOCAL NEWS

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Fuel Oil Cut One Cent a Gallon

The price of fuel oil in Victoria was cut by one cent a gallon from today, by Texaco Oil Company.

The announcement coincided with decision by another major oil company, British American Oil Company, to remove the one-cent price increase for fuel oil announced last week.

Texaco informed its local distributor, C. Ellis Fuels Ltd., that its price for furnace oil would be reduced to 19 cents a gallon.

The move was unexpected, for in the past few days the price of heatings oils was raised by B-A Oil here and in Eastern Canada and the Maritimes, while other major companies including Texaco and Imperial Oil announced similar increases in the east.

Announcing the price cut, B-A Oil said the price of 19 cents a gallon for Solar Heat fuel oil is effective immediately in western British Columbia and the Yukon.

Last Friday the company blamed steadily rising costs for the boost in fuel oil price to 20 cents throughout B.C.

Metropolitan Observes 100 Years of Progress

DR. F. E. H. JAMES
. . . the significance

REV. LAURA BUTLER
. . . of this hour

MRS. T. HARRY JOHNS
. . . pastor's daughter

RT. REV.
ANGUS MacQUEEN
. . . special trip

City Church Achieves Centenary

Metropolitan United Church will look back this Sunday, and through February, on 100 years of progress since it had its start.

That start was in the form of a service in Victoria's city jail, the only suitable building available, Feb. 10, 1859. The service was attended by four Methodist missionaries and a handful of townspeople.

Before 1859 was out, the old Pandora Street Methodist Church at Pandora and Broad had been erected.

BECAME TOO SMALL

That church served until it became too small and then the church at Pandora and Quadra was built and opened in 1891. The congregation of Metropolitan Church still includes a few who were at the opening services there, and they will be honored guests at the anniversary services.

At the morning service this Sunday, both pastors, Dr. F. E. H. James and the Rev. Laura Butler, will give brief addresses on "The Significance of This Hour." The evening service will be unusual: Mrs. T. Harry Johns, daughter of a former pastor, Dr. W. J. Sipprell, will speak on "The Highlights of 100 Years," and there will be an exhibition of old pictures, Bibles, letters, and a model of the Pandora Avenue church.

"HIDING IN THEE"

A quartet with violin accompaniment will sing "Hiding in Thee," which was sung at the first service. The violin used then will be exhibited.

Scheduled to speak at the morning service Feb. 8 is the moderator of the United Church of Canada, Rt. Rev. Angus J. MacQueen, who will make a special trip to Victoria from the east to take part in the centennial observation.

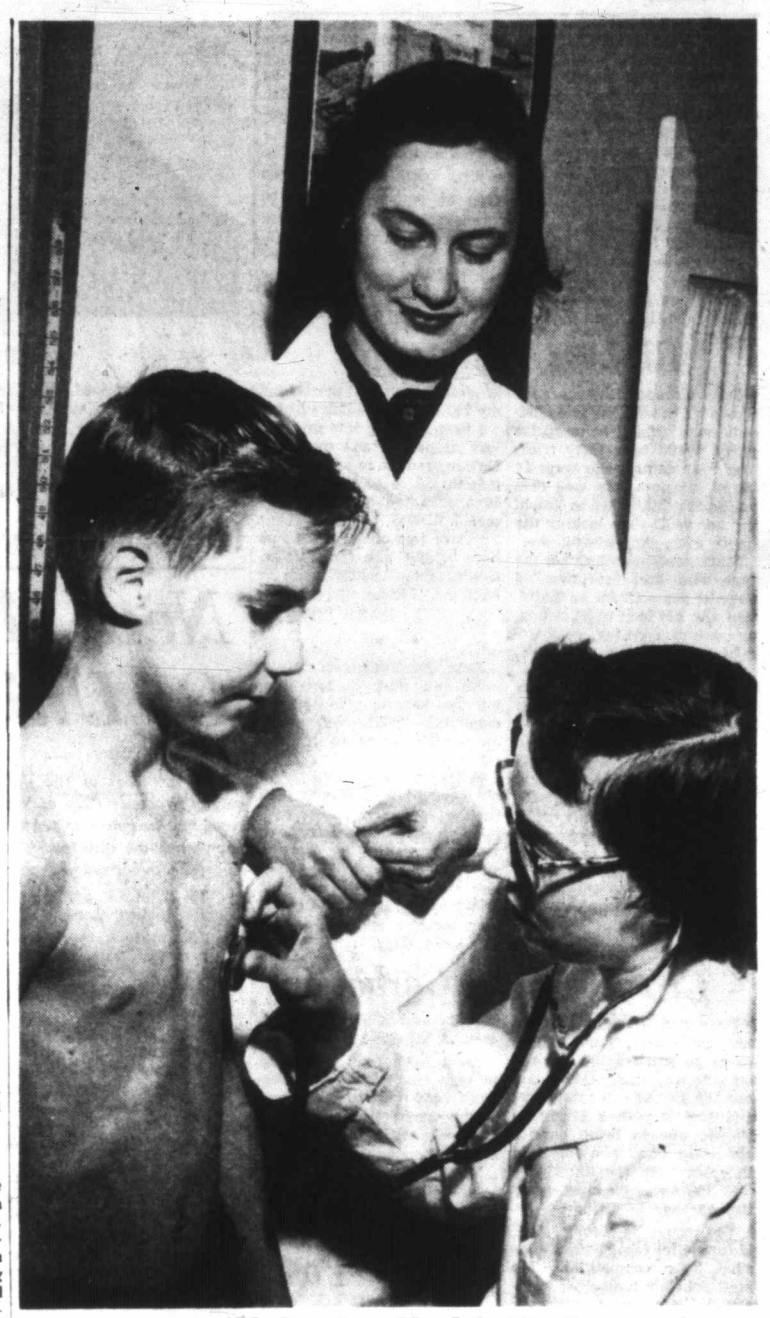
NEW ACCOMMODATION

The church recently led off its celebrations by deciding to proceed with construction of new accommodation for its Sunday school, a new chapel, and renovation and repair of its organ and choir loft. The new building will be erected on property acquired on Pandora to the east of the main building, and total cost of the work program has been placed at close to $200,000.

Dr. Ephriam Evans, one of the four missionaries sent by the Wesleyan Missionary Society in Toronto at the pleading of Christians distressed about conditions on Vancouver Island, was the speaker at the first service in the jail.

The Methodists met there again in March to plan the raising of money for a church, and the cornerstone was laid that August.

Church membership is now 1,500.



All Set for Health Week

Pronounced sound as a dollar, 11-year-old Terry Pearson, 1215 McKenzie, gets final check at Sir James Douglas School from school physician Dr. K. D. Vaughan, right, and school nurse Sheila MacDonald, before emerging to face National Health Week, Feb. 1 to 7, with a smile. School health authorities are constantly on the job during the school year guarding the health of pupils. Importance of their work is underlined during National Health Week. —(Colonist photo.)

Around the Island

Skilled Tradesmen, Builders Seeking Work at Duncan

DUNCAN — The National Employment Service reports an "appreciable increase" of unplaced applicants during the last month — a total of 1,208 males and 191 females. This is an increase of 91 males and 29 females over the December report, but it is a drop of 508 males and females from the unplaced applicants reported in January of 1958.

The hard core of unplaced applicants, the report states, is made up mostly of skilled tradesmen and laborers in the construction industry who have been unemployed for many months and continue in the "live file" with little immediate hope of employment.

The number of female unplaced applicants is at its highest point for the year, mostly because married women are seeking to augment the family income or replace, to some measure, income lost to the family through the husband's unemployment.

The B.C. Forest Service will shortly hire 10 women to tie fir seedlings in bundles of 10 in preparation for tree planting, which is expected to get under way as soon as the ground is favorable.

Kapoor Lumber Co., which was sold to B.C. Forest Products in late December, has not yet reopened, with some 65 workers affected. Summit Lumber Company, whose mill was destroyed by fire in December, resulted in the layoff of 35 loggers.

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NANAIMO — Donald Cunliffe was installed Wednesday as president of Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce, he succeeded Elmer Bradshaw.

Mayor Pete Maffeo also installed the following six directors: Mrs. A. B. Hall, Ald. Doug Greer, Capt. Bill Higgs, Lionel Huxtable, Bruce Meikle and Ian MacLeod.

The new president said that Rex M. Covey will serve as vice-president; Bert Picard, second vice-president; John Dunham, secretary; and Norm Schroeder, treasurer.

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DUNCAN — John Gardner, Duncan district manager of the B.C. Power Commission, told a meeting of Crofton ratepayers this week that the commission will spend $100,000 in a rebuilding job which will strengthen the power service of the Crofton district.

Maple Bay and Lakes Road will also be fed direct from Duncan, Mr. Gardner said, as part of new work to reduce the circuit miles being fed now from the line serving Crofton. Mr. Gardner spoke particularly about interruptions to the power service, complained of by North Cowichan's Reeve Gen. C. A. P. Murison recently, and said that much work had been done to safeguard against future breaks.

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NANAIMO — Funeral services for Mrs. William Morrell will be held at 3 p.m. today from the Westwood funeral home. The young wife was found dead in her car Wednesday near her home. Inquest into her death has been set for Wednesday.

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DUNCAN—A grandmother took the affirmative side of the question, "Are we better parents than were our grandparents?" in the panel discussion of the question arranged by the Duncan-Alexander PTA, and bested two opposing members of the panel, a clergyman and a high school teacher.

Mrs. C. A. Howard, the grandmother, teamed with Mrs. Allan Meynell in support of modern parents, and Rev. Basil Hartley and J. C. Wilson, Cowichan high school teacher, spoke on the negative side.

Mrs. Howard said she felt that she was close to both schools of thought on the question.

"Children of years ago were likely to be uncertain when they were thrust out into the world to make their own way," she said. "But today, parents prepare their children to meet the challenges which life has to offer."

Mrs. Meynell, supporting Mrs. Howard, said that parents today feel a great deal more responsibility in raising their children.

"Today's parents are better educated than their grandparents, and use their knowledge to the betteerment of their children," she said.

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PARKSVILLE — Selling techniques have reached such a stage of perfection in this age that they can be adapted to selling ideas and so influence the thinking of the people and this situation can be extremely dangerous the public relations director of the Canadian Labor Congress said yesterday. The director, Jack Williams, was a speaker at the CLC Seminar here.

There is great need for motivational research and the people of this country should be made aware of the dangers of high-powered salesmanship, he pointed out.

Some advertising experts are boasting that they can turn their skill to the control of public thinking, he charged.

Mr. Williams said there have been "many vicious attacks" against labor in recent months and there is a great need to intensify the efforts of the public relations field at the local level and nationally.

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CAMPBELL RIVER — William Meredith, taxi driver for Campbell River Cabs Company, was charged in Campbell River police court, yesterday, with selling liquor on the wharf here.

He was remanded on $500 bail by Magistrate P. E. Lewis.

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CAMPBELL RIVER — Village commission had been asked to oppose the application of Humphries Water Freight for foreshore rights to 50 feet of river frontage on Maple Street.

The application is being bucked by Elk River Timber Co. which gave the property and access road for the launching of small boats and feel it is not good policy to give exclusive use to a private concern.

The commission has been asked by the timber company to ask the lands department to preserve the river frontage for public use.

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ALBERNI — Sydney Raymond Pippet, 18, was given six months suspended sentence by Magistrate W. E. MacLeod when he appeared in Alberni court, yesterday, charged with taking a car without the owner's consent.

Three juveniles involved with Pippet have not yet been sentenced.

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LADYSMITH — Renovation of the Little Theatre Guild of Ladysmith's auditorium and stage in the new community hall has cost $750 to date. A conservative estimate of volunteer labor by the members is 1,000 hours. Donations from citizens amount to $72.

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LADYSMITH — Mothers' March sponsored by the Kinettes of Ladysmith will be held Saturday in Ladysmith and district.

President Mrs. Edward Hall, chairman of the campaign, points out that many of the mothers taking part will make their rounds a day or two earlier due to home responsibilities, and will make afternoon calls, in many instances.

The Kinsmen will assist by covering the Diamond district which is a large and widely scattered area.

The whole town has been clocked off in sections to be covered by the marching mothers.

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ERRINGTON — Rehearsals are under way of "White Iris," a one-act play which E. D.A. Players, juniors, will enter in the Junior Drama Festival, to be held in the Errington War Memorial Hall, March 19, 20 and 21. In the cast are Jean King, Dorothy Kroller, Louise Simons and Holly Johnson, under direction of H. F. Butler.

"In A Glass Darkly," a one-act play by Muriel Box, has been chosen by E. D. A. Players drama froup for entry in the Northern Vancouver Island Drama Festival at Courtenay in April. In the cast are Valerie Valentine, Dorothy Simons, Joy and Bob McKay, and director is H. F. Butler.

"Island Under the Stars," a sound-color film, produced and directed by John L. Getgood of Yellow Point, will be presented at the Errington War Memorial Hall Feb. 13, not March 13, as previously reported. The filming was done in Nanaimo and the mid-Island region and features the Yellow Point drama group and many local artists.

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LADYSMITH — The final game in a two-game, total-point series between senior boys of Chemainus and Ladysmith high school basketball teams will take place at Chemainus tonight for the Superintendent Hurn Trophy.

First game, played at Ladysmith, was won by Chemainus, 42-39.

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QUALICUM BEACH — A nursing care service has now been added to the program carried on by public health nurses in the Central Vancouver Island Health Unit, serving school district 69, Qualicum. This was announced recently by Dr. L. S. Anderson, acting director. The services offered are in the nature of regular injections, changing of post-operative dressings and other bedside nursing services, and will be on a basis of doctors' prescriptions only. The service is for people of all ages. The two public health nurses serving the district are Miss Betty Johnson and Miss Jean McIntyre.

TB Seals Drive Raised $21,000

A cheque for $21,000 will be presented to Douglas Geekie, chairman of the TB Seals committee in Vancouver, by the Victoria Soroptimist Club Monday night.

The money comprises donations from the sale of Christmas seals here, sponsored by the club.

Federation Names Walls

C. E. S. Walls, of Metchosin, secretary-manager of the B.C. Agriculture Federation, was named a director of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture at the annual meeting yesterday in Saskatoon.

Split the Costs To Live Cheaper

Colonist reporter Ted Shackleford has been assigned to live on $55 for a month to discover how senior citizens on old age-security or old-age assistance payments live and what their problems are

He will be available in The Daily Colonist office—EV 3-4111—between 4 and 5 p.m. each day.

By TED SHACKLEFORD

The secret of living on $55 a month seems to be in finding someone to share costs with.

Of two $55-a-month pensioners I spoke to yesterday, one lives with his wife, also a pensioner and the other shares his house with a sister-in-law. A third, drawing $75 a month, lives with his daughter.

Frederick J. Knudson, 78, of 140 Olive Street, and Mrs. Knudson live on their combined pensions of $110 a month, and Mr. Knudson doesn't want any more money.

"I think the rise (from $46, 15 months ago) helped create inflation," he said. "There is a limit to how you can handle free money."

He suggested that four single pensioners on only $55 a month could band together, rent a three-roomed apartment between them and could eat for $100 a month.

Mr. William Hyde, 89, of 111 Medina, is a $55-a-month pensioner who is not eligible for the provincial supplementary assistance payment — he owns his own home.

"There are not many getting the $20," he said. "Not 40 per cent of them are getting the whole $20. It is scaled.

"That means test is the rottenest thing on the earth. So many have been forced to sell their homes to qualify and they live in shacks."

Mr. Hyde shares his home with a sister-in-law. Food costs them about $70 a month, but on top of that there are a number of expenses which must be met.

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Reporter Skips His First Meal

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Electricity, water and gas cost about $22 a month, leaving $18 to pay taxes on the property (about $150 a year), heating and upkeep.

"The means test is not honest as many people will their homes over to sons and take all their money out of the bank before applying," he said.

Mr. Hyde has no income apart from his $55 pension and has no bank account.

Another viewpoint on pensions came from C. Tapping, an active 76 years old, who receives both the federal pension and the full $20 supplementary assistance payment. He lives at 1036 Craigdarroch with his daughter.

"A man can come here, from Germany for instance, at the age of 60 and live in Canada for 10 years. And then he can get the same pension as a person who was born here and has lived here all his life," he said.

"And the man doesn't have to become a Canadian citizen of swear allegiance to the country."

Mr. Tapping, who is purser of the Thermopylae Club, came to Canada from England 52 years ago. He was one of the pioneer farmers in the Metchosin and Patricia Bay districts.

He also pointed out that present regulations do not cover the period from 60 years of age, when many persons are compulsorily retired, and 65, when they become eligible for old-age assistance payments.

Reduced bus fares, exemption from the provincial sales tax, payment of pensions outside Canada and abolition of the Senate as "an old-age pension club of political appointees" also came under fire.

"The Senate is just an old-age pension club with members getting $10,000 a year," Mr. Tapping said. "There are more than 100 of them so there is $1,000,000 a year. If they were elder statesmen it would be a good thing for the country, but they are just political appointees."

Yesterday I had more success with my cooking, but I missed lunch because I was too busy. Lunch time came and went with a few hunger pains while I was chatting to a pensioner in his home.

Breakfast was puffed wheat, sugar, powdered milk and two cups of tea. For dinner I bought a half pound of pork liver and begged a little fat from the butcher—he usually gives it to pensioners free of charge.

I rendered down the fat and dined royally on slightly burned liver and slightly underdone onions, with two cups of tea.

Apart from the liver (17 cents), I bought two pounds of flour (23 cents), a two-pound pack of pancake mix (28 cents), and spent 26 cents on two bus rides to see the pensioner at lunch time.

My total expenditure to date is $23.59, including 19 cents for matches I bought before the month began, and forgot to include in my costs.

So far, visiting pensioners and meeting people, I have accepted two cigarets; a short, thin cigar and two cups of tea. I have had to refuse cigarets, jelly, buns, cookies, coffee and sherry.

Today I hope to investigate a rumor that canned corn beef hash can be bought cheaply.

I'll start the day off, of course, with puffed wheat, powdered milk, two slices of toast and marmalade, and two cups of weak tea.